

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 15-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 are amended and are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge their claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document filed with the present application on March 23, 2000.

Drawings

The Examiner is requested to provide a Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, Form PTO-948, indicating whether the formal drawings are approved by the Official Draftsperson, with the next official communication.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/§103(a)

Claims 1-5, 9, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 04-246720 to Tsugo et al. Claims 6, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

being unpatentable over Tsugo et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,750 to Roberge et al. Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsugo et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,094 to Ermel et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended to recite a combination of elements in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, wherein selecting a menu generates a corresponding lower menu level, and a last menu level is displayed in a first color that is the same color in which an uppermost menu level is displayed and different from a second color in which intermediate menu levels are displayed.

Independent claim 2 is amended to recite a combination of elements in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, wherein selecting a menu from the plurality of menus generates a corresponding lower menu level, the selected menu and the corresponding lower menu level being displayed in the same manner and differently from other menus and menu levels on the menu screen.

Independent claim 3 is amended to recite a combination of elements in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, wherein selecting a menu from the plurality of menus generates a corresponding lower menu level, the selected menu and the corresponding lower menu level being displayed differently from the other menus and menu levels on the menu screen, and a last menu level is displayed in a first color that is the same color in which an uppermost menu level is displayed and different from a second color in which other menu levels are displayed on the menu screen.

Independent claim 4 is amended to recite a combination of elements in a method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, wherein selecting a menu from the plurality of menus generates a corresponding lower menu level, the selected menu and the corresponding lower menu level being displayed differently from other menus and menu levels on the menu screen, and a last menu level being displayed in a first color that is the same color in which an uppermost menu level is displayed and different from a second color in which intermediate menu levels are displayed.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, Tsugo et al. shows a hierarchical menu system stored in a menu file 2 and

having an identification code for identifying a level I, II, or III to which an element menu belongs, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. A color pattern of a frame representing each menu level is stored in a menu frame pattern file 3, where each level is of a different color. For example, red is for level 1, green is for level 2, and yellow is for level 3. However, Tsugo et al. does not disclose a last menu level that is displayed in a first color that is the same color in which an uppermost menu level is displayed and different from a second color in which intermediate menu levels are displayed, as recited in claims 1, 3, and 4.

Furthermore, Tsugo et al. does not disclose that a selected menu level and a corresponding lower menu level is displayed in the same manner and differently from other menus and menu levels on the menu screen, as recited in claim 2.

In rejecting claims 6, 11, and 12, the Office Action relies on Roberge et al. for a teaching of displaying menus and menu levels using different shadings, where a selected menu and corresponding menu level are displayed using a shading that is different from the other menus and menu levels. However, Roberge et al. does not teach or suggest the above-cited limitations of

claims 2-4 and, therefore, does not cure the deficiencies of Tsugo et al.

In rejecting claims 16 and 17, the Office Action relies on Ermel et al. for a teaching of blocks that are displayed three-dimensionally so as to show their height. However, Ermel et al. does not teach or suggest the above-cited limitations of claims 3 and 4 and, therefore, cure the deficiencies of Tsugo et al. or Roberge et al. with respect to any of claims 1-4.

It is respectfully submitted that the combinations of elements set forth in amended independent claims 1-4 are not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Tsugo et al., Roberge et al., and Ermel et al., and that independent claims 1-4, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are, therefore, respectfully requested.

#### Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is

believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If any issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to telephone Sam Bhattacharya, Reg. No. 48,107, at (703) 205-8000 in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Applicants respectfully petition under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) and §1.17 for a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

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Group Art Unit 2174

Attorney Docket No. 0630-1061P  
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,  
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0630-1061P

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4 has been amended as follows:

1. (Twice amended) A method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, the menu screen comprising a plurality of menus and menu levels, wherein selecting a menu generates a corresponding lower menu level, and a last menu level is displayed in a first color that is the same color in which an uppermost menu level is displayed and different from a second color in which intermediate menu levels are displayed.

2. (Twice amended) A method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, the menu screen comprising a plurality of menus and menu levels, wherein selecting a menu from the plurality of menus generates a corresponding lower menu level, the selected menu and the corresponding lower menu level being displayed in the same manner and differently from other menus and menu levels on the menu screen.

3. (Twice amended) A method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, the menu screen comprising a plurality of menus and menu levels, wherein selecting a menu from the plurality of menus generates a corresponding lower menu



level, the selected menu and the corresponding lower menu level being displayed differently from the other menus and menu levels on the menu screen, and a last menu level is displayed in a first color that is the same color in which an uppermost menu level is displayed and different from a second color in which other menu levels are displayed on the menu screen.

4. (Twice amended) A method for displaying a menu screen on a video display apparatus, the menu screen comprising a plurality of menus and menu levels, wherein selecting a menu from the plurality of menus generates a corresponding lower menu level, the selected menu and the corresponding lower menu level being displayed differently from other menus and menu levels on the menu screen, and a last menu level being displayed in a first color that is the same color in which an uppermost menu level is displayed and different from a second color in which intermediate menu levels are displayed.